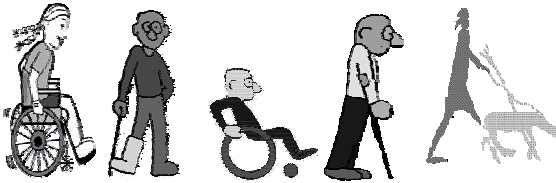


**Plan Now or Suffer & Muddle Through Later!
The Role of Disability Community Based
Organizations in Disaster Planning,
Preparedness, Response, Recovery & Mitigation
Activities**



© JIK 11/05

1

**June Isaacson Kailes
Associate Director
CDIHP**

jik@pacbell.net

310.821.7080

Fax: 310.827.0269

© JIK 11/05

2



**Western University of Health
Sciences**

Pomona, California

Established 1998

www.cdihp.org

© JIK 11/05

3



**CDIHP works to enhance the health of
people with disabilities, through public
policy, consulting, training, research &
dissemination activities.**

© JIK 11/05

4

- Increasing access to health care services, health education, & health careers, by:
 1. Improving capabilities of health care providers to meet needs of people with disabilities through integration of disability content into the curriculum of students at pre- & post-graduate education.
 2. Increasing number of qualified individuals with disabilities who pursue careers in health professions.

© JIK 11/05

5

- Increasing access to health care services, health education, & health careers, by:
 3. Supporting people with disabilities in becoming more active in their health care.
 4. Conducting research on health education, prevention & health care services for people with disabilities.

© JIK 11/05

6



WWW.NOD.ORG

Report on Special Needs Assessment for Katrina Evacuees (SNAKE) Project

© JIK 11/05

7

Saving Lives:
Including People with Disabilities
in Emergency Planning



National Council on Disability
April 15, 2005

www.ncd.gov

http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/2005/saving_lives.htm

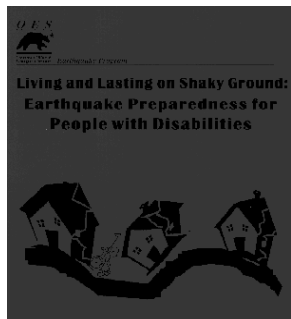
© JIK 11/05

8

A GUIDE TO PLANNING ACCESSIBLE MEETINGS

By June Isaacson Kates
and David Jones

ilru
PROGRAM



www.jik.com/disaster.html

© JIK 11/05

9



EMERGENCY EVACUATION PREPAREDNESS

Taking Responsibility
for Your Safety

A Guide for
People with
Disabilities and
Other Activity
Limitations

By June Isaacson Kates
Disability Policy Consultant

www.cdihp.org

- Products
- Evacuation
Preparedness

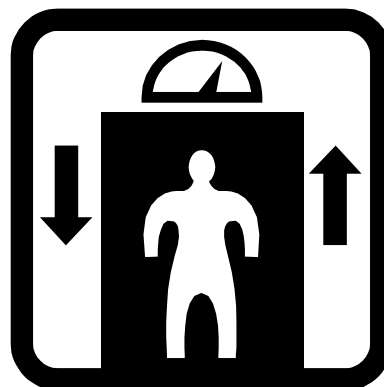
© JIK 11/05

10



© JIK 11/05

11



10



1

© JIK 11/05

12

To cover:



- **Myths of disaster response**
- **Your Role**
 - Funding opportunities
 - Advocacy issues
- **Discussion**

© JIK 11/05

13

Intended Outcomes



- **Recognize that emergency preparedness:**
 - Is a life style choice, not a time limited project.
 - literacy & competencies need to be developed & woven into your culture, practices, policies & advocacy.

© JIK 11/05

14

Intended Outcomes



- **Cultivate thinking regarding what you can do that is different from what you have been doing.**

© JIK 11/05

15

T/F:



CBOs, whether they plan for it or not, play significant roles in emergency response & recovery.

© JIK 11/05

16

COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS (CBOs)

- **represent a vast array of human & social service organizations working with people with disabilities & activity limitations**

© JIK 11/05

17

• Why?

- Disaster response always takes place locally,
- Government emergency organizations have scant knowledge & resources to provide all necessary services.

© JIK 11/05

18

For people with disabilities, CBOs:

- **Provide support networks,**
- **Have unique expertise in delivering services,**
- **Know & can protect the specific interests & needs of groups that they assist on a daily basis,**
- **Know how to outreach to effectively communicate with population's they assist.**

© JIK 11/05

19

For people with disabilities CBOs:

- **Have current records.**
- **Are accessible in terms physical, communication, & program access,**
- **Can serve as satellite distribution sites to provide alternatives, for some individuals, to traditional shelters.**

© JIK 11/05

20

Possible Funding Sources:

- **Traditional:**
 - **FEMA (hopefully soon to be reconstructed and re-elevated in position and funding**
 - **Federal:**
 - **Office of Domestic Preparedness (DHS)**
 - **RSA**
 - **State & Local Emergency Management Departments**

© JIK 11/05

21

Possible Funding Sources:

- **Non- traditional:**
 - **State,**
 - **Corporations,**
 - **Foundations,**
 - **Businesses,**
 - **Current funders:**
 - **MOU's & augmentations**

© JIK 11/05

22

Advocacy & Cross
Training Issues:

- **Emergency managers:**
 - **Understand responsibility to address & accommodate people with disabilities.**
 - **Recognize value & talent of CBOs in disaster activities & include at planning table.**
 - **Include PWDS in all planning.**



© JIK 11/05

23

A lot about

us without us!

© JIK 11/05

24

Nothing about

us without us!



© JIK 11/05

25

Advocate for:



- Integrate CBOs' skill & knowledge into emergency service plans & strategies.
- Recognize, recruit, encourage & provide funding & incentives so CBOs can participate in disaster preparedness & relief.

© JIK 11/05

26



Advocacy Targets:

**Local, state, regional
& federal public &
private emergency
management &
response
agencies.**



© JIK 11/05

27

Google™

<http://katrinadisability.info/>

ilru

YAHOO!
GROUPS

© JIK 11/05

28

T/F?



**Like it or no CBOs
will be involved,
plan now or suffer &
muddle through
later!**

© JIK 11/05

29

Barriers:

- Reluctant to take on added responsibility.
- Not eligible for reimbursement from Federal disaster funds.

© JIK 11/05

30

Solutions:



- Urge traditional funders of CBOs to augment contracts by funding disaster activities such as

© JIK 11/05

31

• Community Networking & Planning.



- Building relationships with other CBOs to coordinate efforts.

© JIK 11/05

32

- Establish cooperative agreements with other organizations that support & assist similar populations,
 - Allow for helping each other when some staff or resources are reduced or unavailable.



© JIK 11/05

33

- Participate in cross training with disaster response personnel & disability organizations so:
 - All gain a better understanding of each others expertise & roles & can plan together for coordinated response.
- Participating in Community Emergency Response Teams & Citizen Corps.



© JIK 11/05

34

- Assisting people in developing individual & family preparedness & mitigation plans.



© JIK 11/05

35

- Establish CBO disaster plans which are:
 - practiced through table-top exercises & drills,
 - evaluated in writing,
 - revised & updated yearly.



© JIK 11/05

36

- Pre-establish contracts so CBOs are not limited by procedural delays, allows:
 - emergency response funds to be immediately appropriated & utilized.
 - Quick deployment of relief services.



© JIK 11/05

37

Public Warnings



© JIK 11/05

38

Emergency Public Warning Issues



© JIK 11/05

39

Access to Public Warning for with visual and hearing disabilities

- Implementing an emergency e-mail & wireless network (personal computer, pager, cell phone, personal digital assistant (PDA), text radios – that convert voice to text, visual alerts in kiosks, video streaming in sign language on web pages) that inform people of emergencies utilizing Internet electronic mail.



© JIK 11/05

40

Public Warning

- **Use of Digital Avatars as sign language translators.** Computer animations that look & move like people. In UK post office avatars translate a limited set of text-based phrases.
 - Future versions will translate fluently from either text or voice.



© JIK 11/05

41

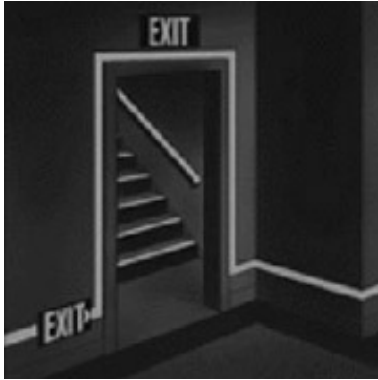
Advocacy Issues [Federal]

- **Develop product safety standards for devices used to evacuate PWDAL from buildings, such as:**
 - Fire safe elevators useable during emergency evacuation,
 - Exits marked with tactile materials, low level lighting, etc.,
 - Directional sound evacuation alarms &



© JIK 11/05

42



„Photo-luminescent signs are fast becoming the new standard for emergency preparedness

© JIK 11/05

43



© JIK 11/05

44

- Developing new methods to evacuate PWDAL from high-rise buildings.



© JIK 11/05

45

- Government funders of CBOs, should integrate disaster preparedness into funding contracts, & by way of sustained financial incentives that encourage participation by CBOs in disaster activities.

© JIK 11/05

46

- Creation of guidance material for Emergency Managers Agencies on how to integrate access priorities into grant making process.



© JIK 11/05

47

- Integrate into emergency management PROPOSAL SELECTION CRITERIA:
- Disability specific indicators that detail evidence of how applicants will:
 - Deal with communication, evacuation, transportation, & physical access.
 - Form partnerships with first responders, emergency planners & PWDAL to ensure accurate training, information & usable services are developed.



© JIK 11/05

48

- Appoint qualified people with disabilities to emergency planning committees, as advisors, trainers, contractors, & consultants & project staff.
- Educate PWDAL about what they can do to be prepared for all hazards.
- Integrate new & update disability specific training content in training & preparedness materials.



© JIK 11/05

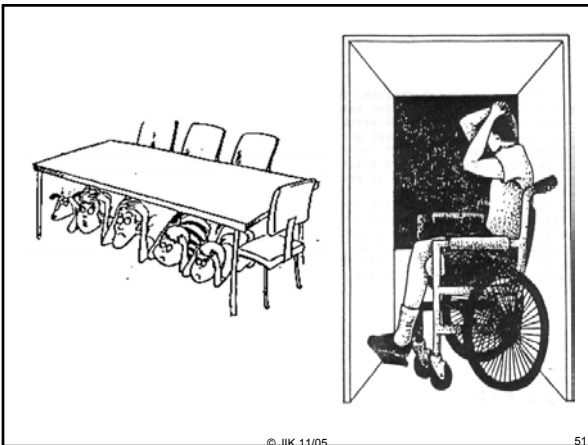
49

Develop Disability Specific Materials

- **Advice for general population is not always equally applicable.**

© JIK 11/05

50



© JIK 11/05

51

Some disability specific materials are:

- **Vague**
- **Incomplete**
- **Impractical**
- **Naïve &**
- **Language used is:**
 - outdated
 - condescending
 - perpetuates negative attitudes & false stereotypes

© JIK 11/05

52

Special Needs



© JIK 11/05

53

Wheelchair users are instructed to:

“Show friends how to operate your wheelchair so they can move you if necessary. Make sure your friends know the size of your wheelchair in case it has to be transported.”

FEMA's Disaster Preparedness for People with Disabilities, 2003



Vague and incomplete!

© JIK 11/05

54

- If you are confined to a wheelchair, consider mounting a small “personal use” fire extinguisher in an accessible place on your wheelchair & become familiar with its use.
- Then, if you can-not “stop, drop, & roll” during a fire, you should “pull, aim, squeeze, & sweep.”

(Fire Risk Series published by the FEMA & US Fire Administration 1999)

© JIK 11/05

55

Impractical, naïve or absurd?

“carry a fire extinguisher on your wheelchair”



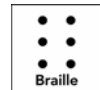
Courtesy of Glen White

© JIK 11/05

56

- Information must be easily available, through same means as other material is distributed with specific & useful advice in accessible formats.

Large Print



© JIK 11/05

57

- Develop emergency preparedness materials that integrates information re: PWDAL into-
 - General materials, &
 - Informs readers how to access more customized materials.

© JIK 11/05

58

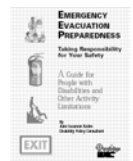
- Compile & distribute, & when not available, create customized preparedness materials that:
 - have disability specific content, useful & relevant to people with limitations in hearing, vision, mobility, speech, & cognition.

© JIK 11/05

59

Materials need:

- More specificity & detail
- Cross disability focus
- Written by & for qualified PWDS
- Not about what people can do for us, but what we can do for ourselves!
- Easy to get
- Alternative formats



© JIK 11/05

60

To Sum it up ... advocate for:



- 1. Emergency managers**
 - accommodating people with disabilities.
- 2. Including PWDS in all planning.**
- 3. Funding & incentives so CBOs can participate in disaster preparedness & relief.**

© JIK 11/05

61

Advocate for:



- 4. Integrating into emergency management PROPOSAL SELECTION CRITERIA disability specific indicators**
- 5. Accessible to public warnings**

© JIK 11/05

62

Advocate for:



- 6. Disability specific preparedness information**
- 7. Improving evacuating devices**

© JIK 11/05

63